July 30 – August 5, 2020 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 31 www.associatednewspapers.net

Tuesday Primary election will determine Nov. 3 ballot

We do not have government by the majority.
We have government by the majority who participate.
Thomas Jefferson

Those who plan to vote in November will have only the candidates chosen by those who vote next Tuesday from which to choose.

A very small percentage of voters throughout all the communities will make the crucial decisions next week and severely limit the choices of those who plan to vote in November. This election will also determine the fate of local millage and tax votes in some communities and a millage renewal for property owners throughout Wayne County.

The vote Tuesday is crucial to the democratic process and a vital step in the privilege and responsibility still endowed on citizens of this country.

Voting is a choice. It is a unique opportunity to support candidates who voters believe can effect the changes they want to see in their city, township, county, state and from the judicial bench in local courts. The political officials elected into office and the policies they implement will impact the lives of every resident, their families and their well being in the future.

Those who care about public affairs, and those who have a casual attitude regarding the politics of their local communities, have a civic duty and responsibility to their fellow citizens to get to the polls and express their opinions.

Although many citizens may feel as if their vote doesn't really count, that is a fallacy that has been repeatedly disproven in close voter totals and results. No matter which side of the political divide voters support, each voice is crucial to the outcome and the eventual future of the local government and court system, along with taxing levels.

Voting is a crucial, meaningful way to express opinions about issues. The voters Tuesday will choose the choices and candidates the remainder of voters will see on the November ballot. We urge every voter exercise their right and voice their opinion on Tuesday.

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet."
Abraham Lincoln

"Too many people fought too hard to make sure all citizens of all colors, races, ethnicities, genders, and abilities can vote to think that not voting somehow sends a message."
Luis Gutierrez

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."
John F. Kennedy

"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who don't vote."
George Jean Nathan

"Democracy is not just the right to vote, it is the right to live in dignity."
Naomi Klein

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."
Plato

"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."
Abraham Lincoln

"If you don't vote, you lose the right to complain."
George Carlin

"Every election is determined by the people who show up."
Larry J. Sabato

"The good thing about democracy is that every vote counts. The problem with democracy is that every vote counts."
Charbel Tadros

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."
Pericles

"Not voting is not a protest. It is a surrender."
Keith Ellison

"There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter."
Barack Obama

"People shouldn't be afraid of their government. Governments should be afraid of their people."
Alan Moore

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 135, No. 31

Candidates for election to the judicial position at the 34th District District Court will be on the ballot in Belleville, Romulus, Sumpter and Van Buren Tuesday.

See page 4.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 31

The lawsuit filed by attorneys for Canton Township seeking to collect nearly half a million dollars in fines accrued as a violation of the township tree ordinance was dismissed last week.

See page 4.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 73, No. 31

The League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights is urging voters to prepare for the upcoming Aug. 4 primary election by visiting VOTE411.org.

See page 5.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 31

Matthew Wilk is no longer the president of the Northville Community School Board of Education following a vote to censure him in response to his Facebook posts.

See page 6.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 31

Voters in Plymouth Township will choose names to appear on the Nov. 3 ballot during the Tuesday election from a field including only one Democrat.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 135, No. 31

Registrations are now being accepted for the annual Romulus Chamber of Commerce Golf outing set for Aug. 27 at Links at Gateway Golf Course.

See page 2.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 31

The second and final reading of the recreational marijuana ordinance in Wayne was approved by a 5-2 vote of the city council members last week.

See page 2.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 31

Members of the Westland City Council approved a $1,000 bonus for both police and fire officers during the July 20 meeting.

See page 5.

Romulus - Wayne

Wayne OK's sale of recreational marijuana in city

The second and final reading of the recreational marijuana ordinance in Wayne was approved by a 5-2 vote of the city council members last week.

Facilities in the city can now legally sell marijuana for recreational use. Medical marijuana facilities have been open in Wayne for some time.

The approval did not come without some discussion and opposition by Council member Kelly Skiff who suggested that the lack of input from the public on the issue was a basis to postpone the vote until the council could again meet face-to-face in chambers rather than the virtual meetings that have been taking place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're not hearing from anybody, for or against. This is an injustice to the residents of the city," Skiff said. "We have not heard enough from the public."

> *We're not hearing from anybody, for or against. This is an injustice to the residents of the city,*

Mayor John Rhaesa strongly disagreed with Skiff and said that a recent issue with the planning commission brought multiple comments and "people heard and responded." He said that the issue was on various Facebook and social media pages and "this is not fair to the business owners."

Rhaesa said that seniors in the community could be watching the meeting being live streamed on their television sets "right now." He said there are more opportunities to communicate with the public than ever before.

"We have 23 people tonight," he said referring to the Zoom video participants. "That's about what we'd have at a regular meeting."

Skiff, however, noted that the city had no idea who those 23 people were and that this was not an issue crucial or essential to the operation of the city.

"This is a controversial issue whether you are for or against it," she said. "The fact is we haven't heard anything for or against is a problem."

Rhaesa called the question demanding a vote on Skiff's motion to postpone the question which was only supported by council members Jeremiah Webster, Phillip Wagner and Skiff.

Owners and operators of marijuana dispensaries in the city joined the meeting and commented that currently users of the product are driving through Wayne to other nearby facilities where it is legal to purchase recreational marijuana.

One owner, Paul Russo, said he has had 300 people ask about recreational product and then go spend money in other cities. "We need to erase the stigma that marijuana is bad-marijuana is good for people," he said. "People live in Wayne, they want to spend their dollars in Wayne."

An opponent of the recreational sales, Kim White Jenkins told the council she felt it was risking branding the city as recreational marijuana friendly. She said the city would receive no taxes until the state had collected the first $20 million in tax revenue on marijuana sales and suggested the council spend as much time recruiting other small businesses to the city as they had on the marijuana issue.

Council members approved the second reading of the new ordinance with Skiff and Webster casting the only no votes.

Romulus chamber is planning annual golf outing in August

The annual Romulus Chamber of Commerce Golf outing will take place Aug. 27 at Links at Gateway Golf Course.

Registrations are now being accepted for the popular event which is a fundraiser for the chamber. Fees for the event are $110 for each golfer or $440 for a foursome.

Organizers are also looking for sponsors for the event willing to donate items for the golfer goodie bags presented at the event. Those interested in having merchandise placed in the bags can email the chamber office at admin@romuluschamber.org to make arrangements to have the donation picked up.

Event sponsorships are also available at $125 for a hole sponsorship to $2,500 for a banquet sponsorship. Businesses or individuals can sponsor a prize, a cart sign, the Continental Breakfast, lunch or the score board at various price points.

> *Registrations are now being accepted for the popular event which is a fundraiser for the chamber.*

The event will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. while a Continental Breakfast is served on the practice range. There will be a shotgun star at 9:30 a.m. sharp, organizers said.

The registration fee includes the breakfast and lunch at the turn.

Safe practices and social distancing will be employed in accordance with current and changed executive orders, organizers stressed.

The Links at Gateway is located at 33290 Gateway Dr. in Romulus.

To register, or for more information, email admin@aromuluschamber.org or call (734)893-0694.

Wayne Historical Society to welcome speakers at museum

The Wayne Historic Museum has reopened and talks have resumed, according to the latest newsletter from the Wayne Historical Society.

The museum has reopened for tours and research from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Masks will be required and hand sanitizer will be provided visitors. Talks at the museum will resume outside on the lawn to provide social distancing. Masks will also be required at talks during the foreseeable future to provide a safe environment, a spokesman said.

Upcoming talks include a 7 p.m. Aug. 13 presentation by the Business and Professional Women Club about women's fight to gain the vote. Titled Suffragettes: 100 years of Women Voting, the program will be followed by the annual free Ice Cream Social hosted by the Wayne Historical Society.

> *The Annual Cemetery Walk hosted by the association will take place from 1 until 3 p.m. Oct. 4 this year at Westlawn Cemetery.*

Norwayne: A planned community will be the topic at the 7 p.m. Sept. 10 meeting. The guest speaker will be Hank Johnson of the Norwayne Citizens Commission.

The Annual Cemetery Walk hosted by the association will take place from 1 until 3 p.m. Oct. 4 this year at Westlawn Cemetery. The walk will highlight several local families and figures. As always, the event is an outdoor walking tour so guests are encouraged to dress appropriately. Donations are accepted.

At 7 p.m. Oct 17, the Historical Society members will host the Witches Brew Tea at the museum. During the haunted tea party, guests will meet several Wayne characters in a spooky setting. Tickets, priced at $35, must be purchased in advance.

There will be a Ghost Hunt at the museum from 8 until 11:45 p.m. on Oct. 24. The Great Lakes Ghost Hunters will attempt to locate paranormal activity in the 140-year-old museum building. A one-hour spot to attend is priced at $25.

Blacksmithing: The Bert Green Story will be the topic at 7 p.m. Nov. 12. Visitors will learn about Bert Green and what life was like as one of the last blacksmiths in Wayne and how the company continues today.

The last event of the year is Holiday Night at the Museum which is planned for 6 until 9 p.m. Dec. 5. Santa will be on hand and cookies and hot chocolate will be available. The town Christmas tree will be lit during the evening.

More about the museum located at 1 Town Square at the corner of Main and Biddle, is available on the Facebook page, waynehistoricalsociety.

You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
• Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.

Synopsis of Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings

Members: Supervisor Pat Williams, Clerk Michael Siegrist, Treasurer Dian Slavens

Trustees: John Anthony, Sommer Foster, Anne Graham-Hudak, Steven Sneideman

Regular Meeting 05/12/2020: Synopsis: Approved consent and general calendar as posted in full on website.

Regular Meeting 05/19/2020: Synopsis: Held Public Hearing on the amended 5 Year Consolidated plan and subsequently approved the amended 5 year Consolidated Plan. Approved consent and general calendar as posted in full on website.

Regular Meeting 06/09/2020: Synopsis: Held Public Hearing on the 2020 Sidewalk repair program and subsequently approve the 2020 sidewalk repair program as detailed in the minutes. Approved consent and general calendar as posted in full on website.

Special Meeting 06/09/2020: Synopsis: Special meeting to approve the Township's 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Regular Meeting 06/23/2020: Synopsis: Approved consent and general calendar as posted in full on website.

Copies of the complete Board minutes can be found for free at www.canton-mi.org. Minutes can also be viewed or copied at 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI during normal business hours. Call 734-394-5120 for more information.

CN2087 - 07300 2.5 x 2.512

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 07/30/20

CN2086 - 07300 2.5 x 4.72

CITY OF ROMULUS

NOTICE OF LETTING
ITB 20/21-02
EXCESS CITY OWNED PROPERTY

Sealed Bids will be received in the office of the City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485 until 2:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time on August 10, 2020. Bids will be opened at 2:15 p.m. on August 10, 2020 in the City of Romulus Council Chambers.

FOR SALE EXCESS CITY OWNED PROPERTY

PARCEL NUMBER	STREET LOCATION	ZONING
80 028 99 0012 703	Ecorse/Wick west of Wayne	R1A & M1

BID PACKETS may be picked up at the City of Romulus Dept of Assessment, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm standard business days.

PUBLISH: July 23, 2020
July 30, 2020

RM0515 - 073020 2.5 x 3.416

CITY OF ROMULUS
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING - August 17, 2020

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m.** on **Monday, August 17, 2020** for the purpose of considering the following:

1. SLU-2020-002; **Spartan Barricade**, requesting special land use approval for a contractor's outdoor storage yard at 30211 Ecorse Road.
2. TA-2019-002; **Vining Road Subarea Overlay District**, a proposed text amendment to Section 7.05 of the Zoning Ordinance.
3. TA-2020-001; **Condominiums**, a proposed text amendment to Article 16, Condominiums of the Zoning Ordinance.

The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485 and also via the ZOOM Meeting app.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85248487195?pwd=VjFvb1lNeHhlVis3WTB3T2Yxcjc4dz09

Dial by your location +1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 852 4848 7195
Passcode: 156244

Written comments may be submitted and should be addressed to the Planning Department, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485 or planning@romulusgov.com.

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to effectively participate in the meeting should contact the Carol Maise, City Planner at 734-955-4530 or send an email to planning@romulusgov.co by 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting to request assistance. Closed Captions will be provided upon request.
Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: July 30, 2020

RM0518 - 073020 2.5 x 5.187

PLYMOUTH

Voters will choose Plymouth candidates in Tuesday primary

Don Howard
Staff Writer

Voters in Plymouth Township will choose the names to appear on the Nov. 3 ballot during the primary election set for Aug. 4 from a field including only one Democrat.

Incumbent Township Supervisor Kurt Heise will serve another four-year term as he is unopposed for the office on the primary ballot.

Also unopposed on the ballot is incumbent Treasurer Mark Clinton, who like Heise, has served in his respective office for four years.

Township Clerk Jerry Vorva, however, who has also served one term, will be challenged by another Republican candidate, long-time resident and former Deputy Clerk Sandy Groth who abruptly resigned her position last year.

Whichever of them is successful Aug. 4 will face Democrat Nancy Conzelman, who was defeated by Vorva in her campaign for reelection as clerk in 2016. Her tenure was filled with controversy and after her exit an unusual number of records and files were reportedly missing. Officials from the federal Drug Forfeiture Funding program at the time informed the police chief that the office had to expel Plymouth Township from that program due to the failure of both the clerk's and then treasurer's office to provide sufficient records and financial documents. After her loss to Vorva in the August 2016 primary election, Conzelman campaigned as a write-in candidate in November and was reported to have received only about 130 votes.

Conzelman's name will appear on the primary ballot as she is unopposed as a Democrat. Conzelman had also filed a petition to seek a term as a trustee but withdrew that petition by the filing deadline.

Seven candidates have filed nominating petitions for the five available trustee terms. Incumbents Gary Heitman and Jack Dempsey have opted not to seek reelection.

Incumbents on the ballot will be Chuck Curmi and Bob Doroshewitz, both long-time members of the board. Also seeking trustee posts are Audrey Monaghan, and former state representative and one-term township trustee John Stewart, who ran unsuccessfully as an independent for the 7th Senate District in 2010.

Others seeking trustee seats are Don Schnettler, Dan Callahan and Becky Krupa, all Republicans.

Krupa was associated with the political action group "Say No to PARC" and then "Say No To All Taxes," registered with the state election commission as Defeat PARC Millage. The group was allegedly formed to block a township public safety millage and defeat the PARC ballot proposal. The ballot proposal, defeated in November 2018, to fund the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex was one of the most contentious issues facing voters in both the city and township, including accusations of vandalism by each side.

Back in action

Following a long hiatus because of COVID-19, the Parking Enforcement Team is back enforcing parking regulations throughout downtown Plymouth, according to a prepared statement from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). For the past several weeks, parking enforcement officers have been handing out reminder cards instead of tickets to those who have gone past the time limits, as a reminder the time limits are still in force in the city. Some vehicles were issued $5 downtown Plymouth gift cards from the DDA as an incentive to remember the time limits. The Parking Enforcement Team has resumed enforcing time limits in all municipal lots. Below is a link to the DDA website with the map of municipal parking lots and time limits: http://downtownplymouth.org/DocumentCenter/View/404/DDA_Parking_Map_2016?bidId=

Rivian to move most of engineering staff from Plymouth

Rivian, the electric vehicle manufacturer, is planning to transfer most of the company engineering and product development staff from Plymouth to Irvine, CA. Several other employees will be transferred to the Normal, Ill plant, according to a statement from the automaker. Rivian currently employs about 750 workers in the Plymouth Township operation and

Rivian spokeswoman Amy Mast confirmed some product development staff will be moving out of Michigan, but she said the company plans to keep some functions in the Plymouth facility. Rivian employs about 2,300 workers in eight facilities - six in the United States, one in Canada and one in the United Kingdom. The transfer to the California site was described as "a consolidation of engineering teams to improve workflows and reduce environmental impact from travel by a corporate spokeswoman.

> *We've recently completed an expansion at our Michigan location, and it will remain an important presence for us.*

"We've recently completed an expansion at our Michigan location, and it will remain an important presence for us. We are also committed to creating a vibrant and inviting manufacturing presence in Normal, where all Rivian vehicles will be produced. As we grow, we'll keep evaluating and evolving our footprint and geography," she concluded.

Friends of the Rouge is awarded a $400,000 state grant

Friends of the Rouge, a non-profit environmental group, has received a $400,000 state grant to fund the development of rain gardens near the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy Nonpoint Source Program (EGLE), awarded the grant for the development of about 31,500 square feet of rain gardens, which are included in a parking lot renovation plan at the Main Street complex where the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) have offices.

Rain gardens are designed to soak up and clean polluted stormwater, according to state environmental experts. Like a large shallow saucer, rain gardens commonly hold about 6 inches of water, and are designed to drain within 48 hours and drain inpurities from runoff rainwater.

> *The rain gardens will absorb as much as 240,000 gallons of stormwater each rainfall and create habitats for pollinators like butterflies and bees.*

"The primary goal of the rain garden project is to create a beautiful, high-performance storm water management system at the FOTR office," FOTR said in a statement.

"The gardens will control and filter significant volumes of storm water to make considerable progress towards resolving issues with sedimentation and flow instability in Tonquish Creek, a tributary to the Rouge River that has been highly impaired by storm water impacts.

"The rain gardens will absorb as much as 240,000 gallons of stormwater each rainfall and create habitats for pollinators like butterflies and bees."

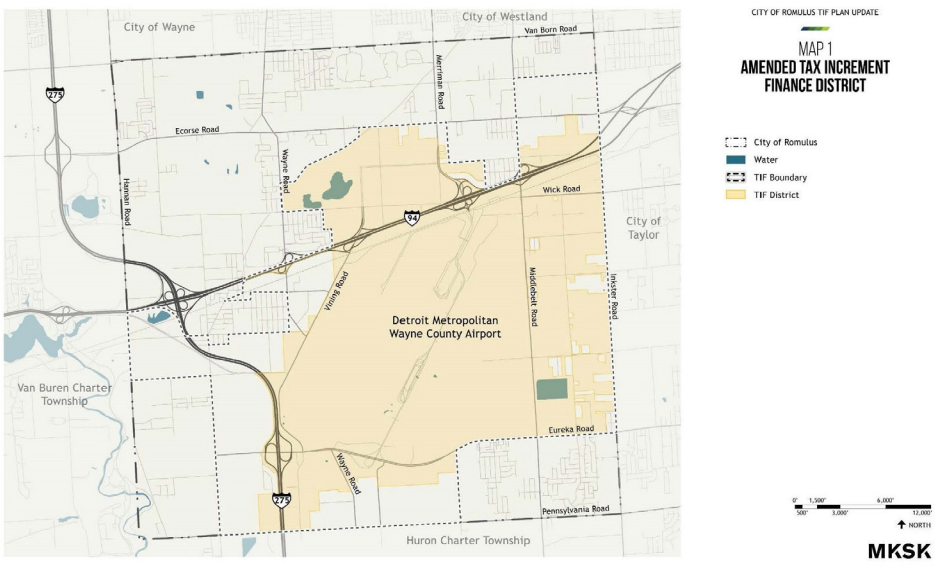
The gardens will also serve as an educational tool and demonstrate best practices that residents across southeast Michigan can use at home and in community landscapes to help solve problems with flooding and water pollution," the statement added.

Volunteers and staff from FOTR will maintain the rain gardens and actively promote the features and benefits of the installation, according to the group.

CITY OF ROMULUS
COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE AMENDMENT TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN OF THE ROMULUS TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF ROMULUS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Romulus, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, will hold a public hearing on Monday, the 24th day of August, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., prevailing Eastern Time, at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, to consider the adoption of an ordinance approving an Amendment to Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Romulus Tax Increment Finance Authority pursuant to Act 450 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1980, as amended.

The boundaries of the development area to which the amended plan applies are as follows:



Copies of the proposed Amendment to Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plans, maps, etc. are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection. At the public hearing, all interested persons desiring to address the City Council shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the Amendment t o Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Romulus Tax Increment Finance Authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained from the Tax Increment Finance Authority Director of the City of Romulus.

This notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Romulus, County of Wayne, State of Michigan.

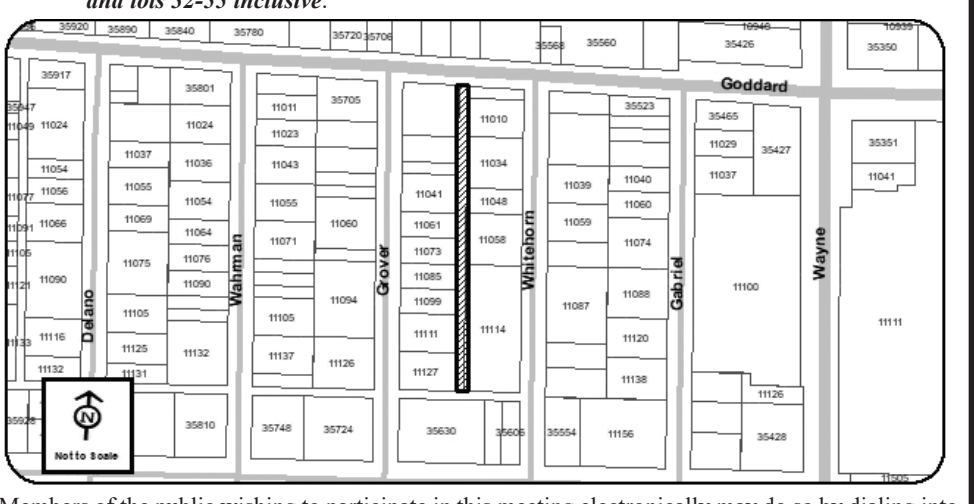
Ellen Craig-Bragg,
Clerk, City of Romulus
Publish: July 30, 2020

RM0516 - 073020 2.5 x 7.507

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY OF ROMULUS
ALLEY VACATION

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Romulus has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on **Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed alley vacation of the following area:

Vacation of the entire alley in the Junction Sub, Block 6 abutting lots 1-24 and lots 32-55 inclusive.



Members of the public wishing to participate in this meeting electronically may do so by dialing into the meeting or online utilizing the Zoom Meeting app.

Topic: PUBLIC HEARING - ALLEY VACATION
Time: August 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (U.S. and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86874691643, Meeting ID: 868 7469 1643

TO JOIN THE MEETING BY PHONE:
1. *Call the teleconferencing number + 1 646 558 8656*
2. *When prompted, enter the Meeting ID# 868 7469 1643, followed by # to be connected.*

Written comments may be submitted by email to Clerk@romulusgov.com no later than 3:00 p.m. Monday, August 10, 2020.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 167 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA).
Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should contact the City of Romulus Clerk's office by writing or calling City Clerk Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174; 734-942-7540. A copy of this notice is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Publish: July 30 and August 06, 2020

RM0517 - 073020 2.5 x 7.696

Belleville - Canton

Canton 'tree ordinance' is struck down by court

The lawsuit filed by attorneys for Canton Township seeking to collect nearly half a million dollars in fines accrued as a violation of the township tree ordinance was dismissed by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Susan Hubbard last week.

The township had filed suit against brothers Gary and Matt Percy who had clear-cut 1,500 trees from 16-acres of land they owned near Belleville and Yost roads in the township. According to filings by the township attorneys, the clearing was in violation of the township ordinance which requires a permit for the clearing of trees. The Percys were attempting to start a Christmas tree farm on the cleared land, according to court papers.

Hubbard ruled that attempts by Canton Township to oversee the clearing of the land were unconstitutional based on the zoning status of the property.

"There is no dispute that (they) failed to obtain a permit for clearing the subject property," the judge said in her written opinion on the lawsuit. "Here, the removal of trees requires replacement of trees on the property, replacement of trees somewhere else, or payment into the tree fund," Hubbard wrote. "The placement of this condition on a property zoned industrial or light industrial bears no relationship to the aesthetics of the subject property, but only provides a benefit to Canton in the form of payment or planting of trees in Canton's tree farm," Hubbard wrote.

"The tree ordinance as applied to (the Percys) is a constitutionally invalid regulatory taking of the subject property. The Fourth Amendment claim is applicable as to a seizure of property to the extent that it is a meaningful interference with (the Percys) possessory interests."

> *The Fourth Amendment claim is applicable as to a seizure of property to the extent that it is a meaningful interference with (the Percys) possessory interests.*

"As an initial reaction, we disagree with the ruling and feel it will have widespread and devastating consequences for local governments in Michigan," said township attorney Kristin Kolb. She said that no decision on an appeal of the decision had been determined. Attorneys for the Percy brothers from the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative group, said the decision could impact all property owners in the township.

"Friday was a very big win for our clients," foundation attorney Robert Henneke said. "I think you have the clear message being sent by the court that the township of Canton was wrong." A pending lawsuit claiming a violation of the brothers' First Amendment rights is currently in the courts. In that filing, the brothers claim the township and representatives of the township harassed them after their story was publicized in area media.

Attorneys from the same group represented F.P. Development, LLC, and owner, Frank Powelson, who sold the land to the Percy brothers, in a similar federal lawsuit against the township. According to court documents in that case, F.P. Development LLC removed about 173 trees from 24 acres of industrially-zoned property without a permit. The trees were removed, according to the court filings, in an effort to access a clogged ditch which was causing flooding. The township had levied nearly $50,000 in fines against Powelson in that incident, which was also dismissed by a federal judge. That matter is currently under appeal in the Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, OH.

A federal judge ruled the township's tree ordinance went too far and was unconstitutional in that case, which is now with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

34th District Court candidates vying for 6-year judicial term

Candidates for election to the judicial position at the 34th District District Court will be on the ballot in Belleville, Romulus, Sumpter and Van Buren Tuesday. The names of the top two vote getters will then appear on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot.

Vying for the position at the court is incumbent David M. Parrott who is being challenged by Alexandria Taylor, Robet P. Coutts, John R. Day and Lisa Martin, The 34th District Court handles cases from Belleville, Van Buren, Romulus and Sumpter Township along with out-county arraignments from Wayne County.

Parrott, the incumbent is completing his 18th year at the court. The 60-year-old Van Buren Township resident was elected in 2002, 2006 and 2014. He earned his Juris Doctorate in 1985 from Wayne State University Law School and his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor.

Coutts is a 21-year resident of the area and currently resides in Van Buren Township He has a five-star rating with avvo.com and has practiced law for 30 years after earning his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Toledo College of Law and his bachelors degree at Eastern Michigan University. He formerly served on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. This is his second bid for elections to the court.

> *The names of the top two vote getters will then appear on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot.*

Day, 65, is a long-time resident of New Boston with a law practice in Belleville. He earned his law degree, cum laude, at the University of Detroit School of Law following his bachelor of arts degree with high honors at Michigan State University.

Day has served as the Belleville city attorney, the Belleville prosecutor and the Belleville Area District Library attorney.

Martin, 46, has been a resident of Van Buren Township for 13 years. She earned her bachelor's degree form Harvard University and he law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She was appointed as an attorney magistrate at the 34th District Court in May of 2018 where she served until February of this year. This is her second bid for election to the judicial bench.

Taylor, 39, is a resident of Romulus and has been a resident of the court jurisdiction her entire life. She is the manager of Taylor Law Firm and adjunct professor at University of Detroit Mercy Law School.

She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit School of Law, a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Michigan State University and a master of business administration from Eastern Michigan University.

The top two candidates will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot vying for the 6-year term on the judicial bench.

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Attention: Food Service Management Companies

The Romulus Community Schools is requesting proposals for school food service management services. The Food Service Management Company will provide management services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of Michigan Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Food Service Management Companies and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

Romulus Community Schools
36540 Grant Road
Romulus Michigan 48174

The Romulus Community School Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A copy of the RFP will be available by email at asrudolph@romulusk12.org by August 5, 2020.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 am on August 21, 2020. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Romulus Community School District and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal.

INKSTER - WESTLAND

League of Women Voters offers election information

The League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights is urging voters to prepare for the upcoming Aug. 4 primary election and the Nov. 3 general election by visiting VOTE411.org.

The website, which the national League of Women Voters launched in 2006, serves as a "one-stop-shop" for nonpartisan election related information and responses to relevant questions for federal and state races and ballot proposals. Candidate information for some local races and proposals are also included. VOTE411.org also assists voters in finding their polling places, hours and learning about candidate forums. Additional resources for how to navigate elections during the COVID-19 pandemic is also included.

"VOTE 411 is a great way to educate yourself about the candidates and races on your ballot! It's useful whether you choose to vote absentee or in person. You can also use the links on VOTE411 to check your voter registration and absentee ballot status, or to find your polling place. We hope that citizens in our communities and throughout Wayne County will take advantage of this resource and the opportunity to vote," a League of Women Voters spokesperson said.

> *The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that aims to encourage informed and active participation in government...*

VOTE411.org is also available in Spanish. The LWV of Michigan hopes to publish paper voter guides covering statewide offices in September.

VOTE411.org, like the League, is nonpartisan and offers information on candidates in races for all political parties. The site aims to safeguard democracy by driving voter engagement.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that aims to encourage informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Learn more about the Dearborn-Dearborn Heights league at www.lwvddh.org

Westland names local businessman to vacant commission seat

Matthew Tyranski has been appointed to the Westland Economic Development Corporation/Tax Increment Finance Authority/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board. He will complete a term which expires Nov. 15, 2020.

Tyranski was named to the board by Westland Mayor William R. Wild and his appointment confirmed by members of the city council.

Tyranski is the owner of Olympic Coney Island in the city and has been in the community for 22 years. He is married with three children and is a graduate of Western Michigan University where he earned a business degree.

The EDC is governed by a nine-member board appointed by the mayor and subject to confirmation of the city council. Members are appointed to six-year terms. The EDC promotes, facilitates and implements plans and projects that support economic and business development through programs and public improvement projects that create economic opportunity, provide entrepreneurial support, and preserve property values, according to a city statement. The EDC reviews tax incentive requests received by the administration and provides a recommendation to the city council members for a consideration at a public meeting. Members of the EDC also make up and serve as the board of directors for the Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

The TIFA was established pursuant to PA 250 which allows for the establishment of a special tax district in which revenue resulting from increases in the assessed value of the area containing a new development is diverted from the various taxing jurisdictions and used for financing of public improvements to support future development in the district. The TIFA establishes a development plan and an associated financing plan in order to encourage economic development within the district.

Brownfield properties are those in which the redevelopment or reuse of the property may be complicated by the presence or perception of contamination. Revitalizing and redeveloping these properties protects the environment, reuses existing infrastructure, minimizes urban sprawl and creates economic opportunities. The Brownfield Program uses tax increment financing (TIF) to reimburse Brownfield related costs incurred while redeveloping contaminated, functionally obsolete, blighted or historic properties. The authority members meet following the submission of a Brownfield Redevelopment Plan. The authority promotes and facilitates the revitalization, redevelopment and reuse of obsolete properties, according to the city.

"Matthew brings life experiences and knowledge to his newly-appointed position and I look forward to working with him throughout his upcoming term," commented Wild.

Matthew Tyranski

City council approves $1,000 bonus for first responders

Members of the Westland City Council approved a $1,000 bonus for both police and fire officers during the July 20 meeting.

The funds will be paid to the first responders and public safety personnel in August as a hazardous-duty pay in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The bonus will be a single addition to the normal salaries paid to the emergency personnel. The hazard pay is expected to cost the city about $141,000.

"I've already received a few texts from some of the union employees who are thanking us for that," Councilman Mike Londeau said at the end of the meeting.

The vote to approve the $1,000 bonus was unanimous.

Mayor William R. Wild said the city is pursuing reimbursement from the Michigan Department of Treasury under the First Responder Hazard Pay Premium Program. That reimbursement is disbursed by the state on a first-come, first-served basis.

Officials said that if the funding is not reimbursed by the state, the expense would be funding from the current police and fire budgets.

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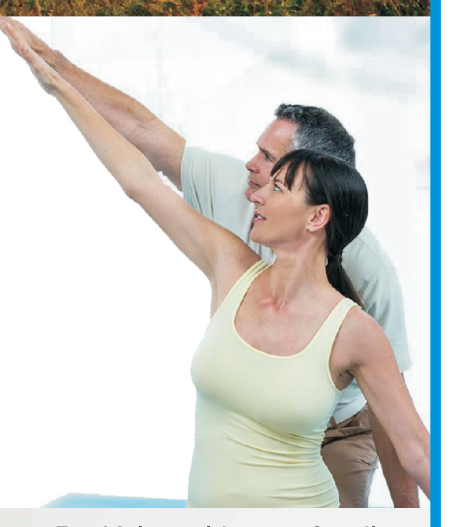

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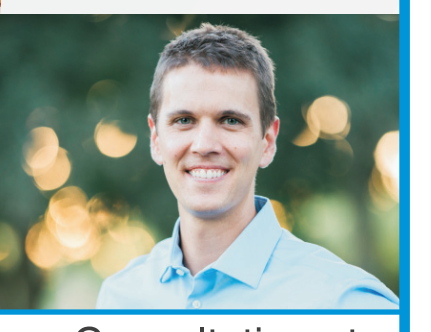

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Northville

School board president stripped of office

Matthew Wilk is no longer the president of the Northville Public Schools Board of Education.

Members of the board voted last week to remove him from that office and to censure him in response to Facebook posts he made downplaying the coronavirus and claiming the COVID-10 pandemic is a hoax. In one of those posts, Wilk said the coronavirus "only exists in falsified statistics shouted on the news without context." That post was removed when rampant criticism of Wilk and correction of the misinformation was posted by numerous Northville school district parents. In another post, Wilk said, "Why don't we allow schools to reopen and grandma can take the extreme precautions? She can wear a spacesuit when she 'need' to go out and shop and the rest of the world can go on about the lives…"

More than 4,000 residents signed a petition demanding Wilk's removal as the president of the school board.

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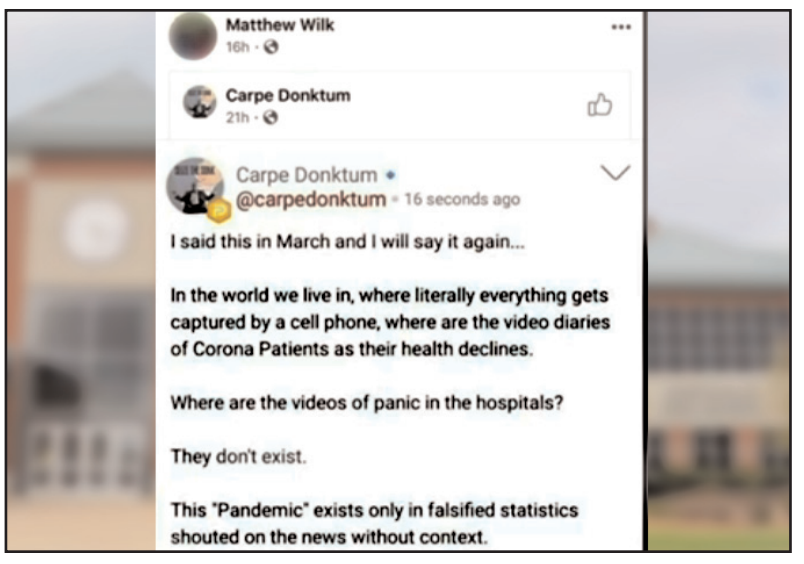
In a statement following the furor his comments created, Wilk said, "I probably should have followed my kids' own rules to on the internet: everything you say will be twisted, misconstrued and taken out of context. It's just the way things are in 2020. I've been the staunchest proponent of getting our kids back in school in the fall. Even the Governor thinks it can be done safely. I think the offense really ought to be directed at the ideas, not the messenger. I thank the hundreds of parents who sent me messages of support."


Matthew Wilk
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@carpedonktum · 16 seconds ago
I said this in March and I will say it again...
In the world we live in, where literally everything gets captured by a cell phone, where are the video diaries of Corona Patients as their health declines.
Where are the videos of panic in the hospitals?
They don't exist.
This "Pandemic" exists only in falsified statistics shouted on the news without context.

Members of the board met and heard public comment on the situation on both Monday and Tuesday night last week. Wilk was removed from his position as president and censured during the Tuesday meeting.

Wilk's elected term on the board expires this year and he is expected to be on the ballot in November. He chaired the virtual meeting of the board members on Monday. He said during that meeting that his views are his own.

Several parents responded to his posts, however, many highly critical of his opinions.

One parent posted, One parent said that his leadership role in the district requires that he be held to a different standard of conduct.

"As others have mentioned, this is not only incorrect, it is also incredibly harmful and potentially dangerous to the community at large," said a Northville alumni.

Another was more supportive, stating, "He has the right to his opinion. And me personally? I think kids should go back to school, full time. And as a single working mom I need my kids to go to school," said one Northville parent during the Monday meeting.

Matthew Wilk

"I think he's an upstanding individual and I don't see him anywhere off that board. If you wanted to give a censure I understand that because your opinions matter and they are quite valid. But to move him out of that position in a crisis time like this I think that would be a short-sighted decision," said another resident who commented during the virtual meeting Monday.

Northville voters asked to approve a public safety millage

Voters in Northville Township will be asked to approve a millage to fund police, EMS, fire, parks, recreation, senior and youth services on the Aug. 4 ballot.

While the millage is an increase of ½ mill, that amount will be offset by a decrease of approximately ½ mill in the millage used for the Seven Mile Road property purchase.

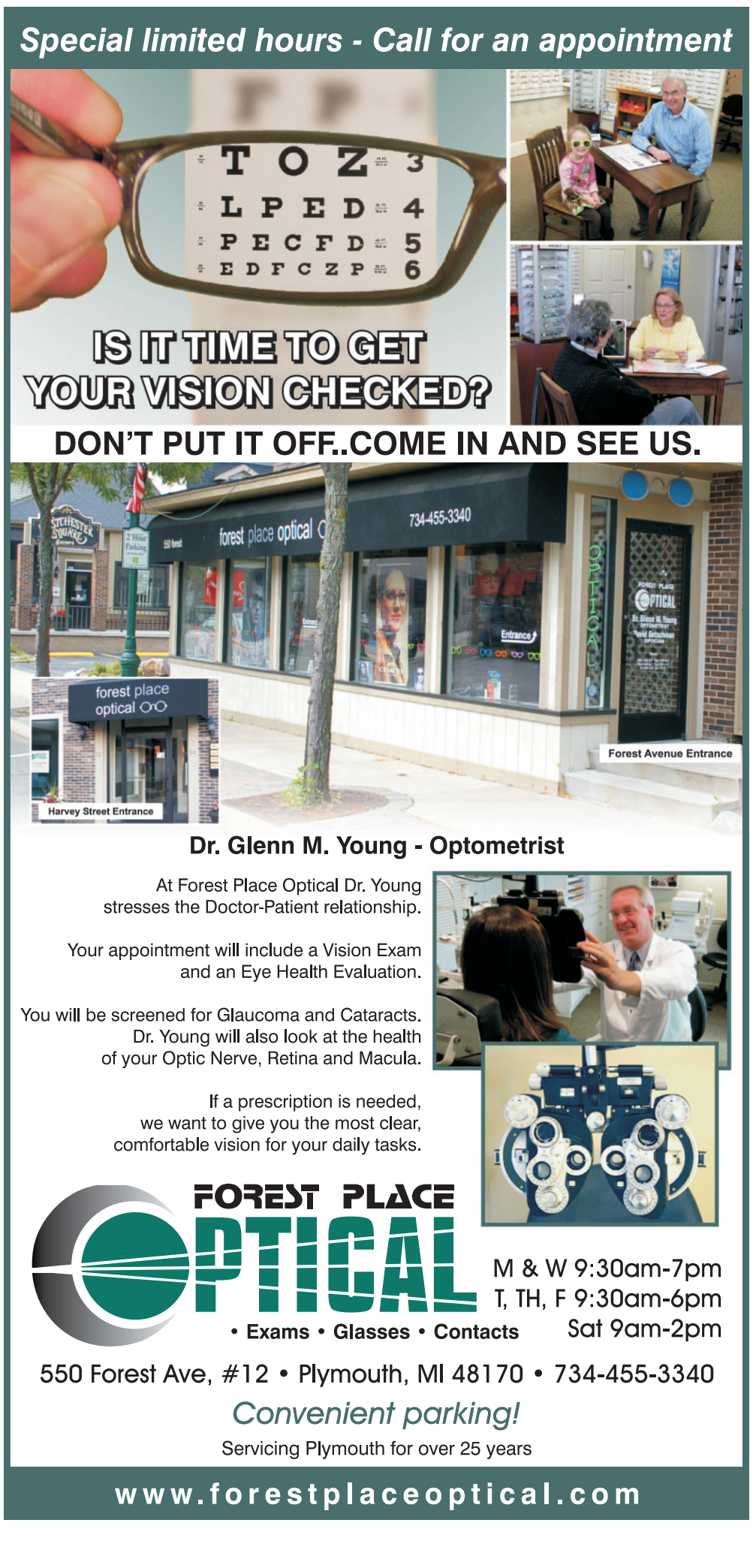
Therefore, according to officials, approval of the Aug. 4 millage will result in no increase in the amount taxpayers in the township are assessed.

> *Therefore approval of the Aug. 4 millage will result in no increase in the amount taxpayers in the township are assessed.*

Members of the Northville Board of Trustees approved the new millage at the April 16 regular meeting. The existing millage to fund township operations will expire this year and trustees agree to place the increase of ½ mill on the ballot, effective for 6 years, from 2021–2026.

According to a prepared statement from the township, the decision was based on months of analysis and input from residents. The findings indicated that residents are in favor of maintaining the current levels of police, fire and EMS services currently being provided in the community. To accomplish that retention of service levels, the ½ mill is necessary and 90 percent of that increase is needed to fund the public safety department.

A Northville Township house with a market value of $400,000 will see an increase of approximately $100 per year if the millage is approved by voters, however that increase will be offset by a decrease of approximately the same amount in the separate millage for the 2009 Seven Mile Road property purchase. As a result, the total millage paid by property owners will not increase, officials said.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